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Report No. B - 2460

12 April 1945

FROM: DARN
DATE OF INFO: 10 April 1945
DATE OF REPORT: 12 April 1945
EVALUATION: F-2
SOURCE: German official who departed to
Switzerland February 1945 and is now
seeking our favors, via 441
COUNTRY: GERMANY
SUBJECT: Sender-Commande "Schwendt"
DISTRIBUTION: Paris, Washington, Caserta, Files (3)

1. Early in 1944, an independent command known as "Sender-Commande Schwendt" was formed by HIMMLER. At the head of it stood SS-Obersturmbannführer (Lt. Col.) SCHWENDT. Schwendt's mission was to purchase abroad a variety of objects including gold, diamonds, securities, as well as certain raw materials and finished products such as silk stockings, expensive perfumery, etc. In his activities, Schwendt was reporting directly to Himmler.

2. Our informant claims that large sums in English bank notes were placed at Schwendt's disposal for this purpose.

3. Schwendt's main office was first at FRIEDEN, then in BERNO, and is now in MILAN. The purchases were stored in Merano in the SS-Truppenwirtschaftslager, former Alpini-Depot. From there, they were gradually distributed among various important party members, or hidden in caves in various parts of the Ródut.

4. Our informant will indicate in his next report the exact location of the SS-Truppenwirtschaftslager on the Merano town plan. He also claims to know at least some of the caves used for ultimate consumption. We are following up this matter and will report further.

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